

#5/A
4-4-02
M.L.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: T. Kudò, et al.

: Art Unit:

Serial No.: To be assigned

: Examiner:

Filed: Herewith

FOR: GROUP FORMING SYSTEM, GROUP
FORMING APPARATUS, GROUP FORMING
METHOD, PROGRAM, AND MEDIUMPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 16, with the following:

A1

One aspect of the present invention is a group forming system comprising:

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 8, with the following:

A2

Another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus
comprising:

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 15, with the following:

A3

Still another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus,
wherein said apparatus further comprises activity judging means of judging a degree
of activity of the group on the basis of a history and/or a frequency of postings of
information to the group from the user belonging to the group, and